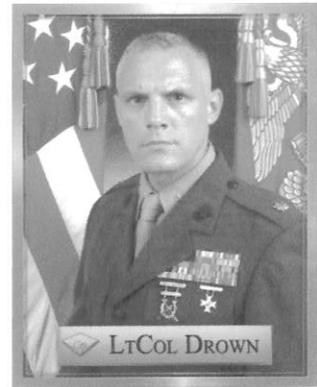


Commanding Officer
Marine Tactical Command Squadron 18
Policy Statement on Unit, Personal and
Family Readiness Program (UPFRP)



Individual and family readiness is essential to the success of MTACS-18; we need informed and resilient Marines, Sailors and families to accomplish our mission. It is important that we build and maintain a strong Unit Personal and Family Readiness Program. The goal of our Family Readiness Program is to provide resource information, training, and support services to empower our Marines and their families, so they can effectively manage the numerous challenges associated with military service and flourish from these incredible experiences and opportunities. A Marine is better able to focus on the mission when they know that their family is taken care of and prepared for the rigors of military life.

The Marine Corps defines family as, “the family you were born into, sworn into or married into.” This definition is all encompassing and includes spouses, parents, siblings, children and extended family. For this reason, all Marines, Sailors and family members of MTACS-18 and their support teams play a vital role in the readiness of MTACS-18. The Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program is the direct link between our unit and our local and extended family members.

Operational readiness, as well as personal and family readiness, directly affects the fundamental mission of the Marine Corps, which is to make Marines and win battles. Our most sacred resource is the individual Marine and his/her family and our success as an institution is inextricably linked to their morale and well-being. The time to start building a strong supportive network is not the day we deploy.

There are numerous resources available to assist in the pursuit and achievement of a high state of personal and family readiness. I charge all leaders to assist in the implementation of this program by providing counsel to Marines and allowing them to participate in UPFRP educational training and unit social events.

We must be confident in our ability to deploy with the knowledge that our unit is prepared for all assigned missions, and this includes our families. We will encourage our families to participate in the Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program and we will promote a strong MTACS-18 family network. One team, one family, one fight!

To learn more about our Unit, Personal and Family Readiness Program or volunteer opportunities, contact our **Family Readiness Officer: Mrs. Michelle Whitehead** at DSN 636-3197, Cell: 090-2580-8358 or **E-mail: michelle.o.whitehead@usmc.mil**.

Semper Fidelis,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. R. DROWN'.

E. R. DROWN

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Commanding Officer

Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18